

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG, IS, US
SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR EGYPT-ISRAEL ACCOMMODATION - ONE
ISRAELI VIEW

1. IN COURSE INFORMAL LUNCH SEPT 21 WITH DCM AND EMBOFF, CHAIRMAN ZADOK OF KNESSET FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECURITY COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERED HIS PERSONAL THINKING ON MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT SITUATION. SINCE AS ZADOK NOTED, MRS MEIR, EBAN, AND DAYAN EACH GIVE POLICY BRIEFINGS TO COMMITTEE SEPARATELY ABOUT ONCE A MONTH (EBAN LAST DID SO PREVIOUS WEEK AND ZDINITZ#DID SO SEPT 17), CERTAIN OBSERVATIONS ZADOK MADE MAY BE OF INTEREST.

2. ZADOK SAID HIS PERSONAL OPINION WAS THAT ONLY WAY TO ATTACK MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WAS WITH INTERIM SUEZ CANAL SETTLEMENT, THOUGH HE WAS DISCOURAGED ABOUT EGYPTIAN READINESS OR WILLINGNESS TO MOVE. ZADOK HAD BEEN INTERESTED IN SUCH SETTLEMENT EVER SINCE SADAT PUBLICLY BROACHED IT. (ZADOK SAID HE GAVE SPEECH FEBRUARY 6, 1971 IN WHICH HE WAS FIRST ISRAELI LEADER TO REACT PUBLICLY TO SADAT, AND HIS HIGHLY POSITIVE RESPONSE TO IDEA, WHICH HE HAD NOT COORDINATED WITHIN GOI, DID NOT PLEASE MRS MEIR AT THE TIME.)

3. ZADOK REMARKED THAT DAYAN HAD ALWAYS BEEN STEP AHEAD OF GOI IN FLEXIBILITY OF HIS IDEAS ON SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT. SINCE EGYPTIAN EXPULSION OF SOVIETS SUMMER 1972, DAYAN HAD BEEN MORE FLEXIBLE ON IDEA OF EGYPTIAN PRESENCE EAST OF
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CANAL AND ON DEPTH OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. ZADOK SAID LATEST FEATURE OF DAYAN THINKING, WHICH HAD STARTED EMERGING IN PRESS, WAS TO STRESS POINT THAT CONTINUED ISRAELI CONTROL OF PART OF SINAI UNDER PARTIAL SETTLEMENT NEED NOT IMPINGE ON

EGYPT'S CLAIM TO SOVEREIGNTY OVER WHOLE OF SINAI.

4. ZADOK COMMENTED THAT THIS NEW STRESS BY DAYAN WAS COMPATIBLE WITH WHAT HAD BEEN GOI POSITION ALL ALONG, THAT IS, ISRAEL UNDER SETTLEMENT WANTED "CONTROL" BUT NOT NECESSARILY "SOVEREIGNTY" OVER CERTAIN STRATEGIC POINTS IN SINAI. IF EGYPTIANS WERE CLEVER, THEY WOULD SEIZE ON THIS IDEA, AS IT CONTAINED GERM OF THE KIND OF FACE-SAVING ISRAELI ASSURANCE TO BE EXTENDED TO EGYPT IN ADVANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS WHICH

EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN INSISTING THEY HAD TO HAVE.

5. ZADOK NOTED REPORTS US WAS CALLING ON ISRAEL TO COME UP WITH NEW IDEAS TO GET MOVEMENT STARTED TOWARD MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT HE HIMSELF, KNOWING HIS GOVERNMENT, DOUBTED THAT ANY SUCH IDEAS WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. ONLY IF US COULD PRESENT GOI WITH CONVINCING CASE THAT A CERTAIN ISRAELI MOVE OR PROPOSAL WAS ASSURED OF A POSITIVE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE WAS GOI LIKELY TO MAKE SUCH MOVE. THERE WAS RESISTANCE WITHIN GOI AS MATTER OF PRINCIPLE TO NOTION THAT ISRAEL SHOULD MAKE NEXT MOVE WITH EGYPT OR THAT ISRAEL SHOULD OFFER CONCILIATORY GESTURE TO GET TALKS STARTED (SUCH AS ADVANCE ASSURANCE RE SOVEREIGNTY IN SINAI AS MENTIONED IN PARAS 3 AND 4). FURTHERMORE, IT WAS MRS MEIR'S STYLE TO INSIST ON WIDE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS IN ISRAEL BEFORE AUTHORIZING ANY NEW ISRAELI MOVE. RESULT WAS SUCH MOVE LIKELY TO BECOME WIDELY KNOWN EVEN BEFORE IT WAS MADE, LEADING TO HEATED WRANGLE WITH ISRAELI RIGHTWING. HENCE MRS MEIR'S NEED TO KNOW CAIRO WOULD BE RESPONSIVE.
KEATING

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